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Agnew Says Heckling May Force New Laws

Vice President Spiro Agnew said yesterday that federal legislation might become necessary to protect the civil rights of public speakers who are drowned out by demonstrators.

Repeatedly whistled down by hecklers at a San Diego rally Wednesday, the Vice President said that "if it keeps up to this extent, laws may be necessary."

"I do believe that to characterize this as simply dissent is wrong," Agnew told a news conference yesterday, in Los Angeles. "I think the American people are really a little bit impatient with people who talk a good game of civil rights and then interfere with other people's civil rights.

Spokesmen for both the Nixon and McGovern campaigns accused the other side yesterday of encouraging and even staging the disruptions that have periodically dogged GOP rallies.

Agnew has been heckled on and off during the past few weeks and he usually comes prepared with comments intended to put down the demonstrators. At stops at Syracuse and Utica last week, he countered hecklers at rallies there with shrill blasts on a policeman's whistle that travelling newsmen had given him as a joke. At a dinner in Boston attended by Pat Nixon Tuesday, police used horses and dogs to turn back thousands of demonstrators who broke through police lines outside Boston's Commonwealth Armory.

McGovern's national political director Frank Mankiewicz charged that the San Diego heckling was clearly a Republican concoction.

"Those hecklers were hired and the whole incident staged," Mankiewicz maintained after watching televi-

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sion film clips of the episode. HE said he had nothing else to back up his statement, but described the hecklers as "central casting types who shook their fists for the camera right on cue."

The McGovern strategist alluded skeptically to the prepared text that Agnew addressed to the San Diego hecklers. As for a fist fight that broke out, Mankiewicz said it had the look of "an old Grade-B western movie. At least in California, you'd think that Mr. Agnew's movie friends could hire competent stunt men."

Back in Washington, White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler countered by saying that it was quite evident to him that recent disruptions of GOP events "obviously were staged by McGovern people." He said the protests showed "evident coordination."

Ziegler, along with White House communications director Herbert Klein and Republican National Chairman Bob Dole, called on McGovern to denounce such outbursts.

"I've often wondered why George McGovern, who says he is Mr. Self Righteous, Mr. Moralist, can permit demonstrations against the President's First Family" Dole asserted on the "Nixon Network," a paid political radio program broadcast from the President's campaign headquarters each morning.

The rhetoric continued to build up throughout the day.

At most Agnew rallies, the Vice President's comments have been at the expense of the demonstrators—"I didn't know the San Diego Zoo granted paroles," he said Wednesday—but the hecklers only rarely have succeeded in drowning him out while he was speaking.

Agnew said he thought the demonstrations were becoming more virulent because it was the last week of the campaign. Asked about Mankiewicz's accusations, he said:

"Those demonstrators were no more put up by me or anyone connected with the Nixon-Agnew campaign than were the ones that Mrs. Nixon has encountered in her travels. I can assure you that there's absolutely no connection between these demonstrations and the Nixon-Agnew effort."

The Vice President said he had never charged that the demonstrations were "orchestrated" by the McGovern campaign, but he alleged yesterday that "the McGovern policy of looking for reasons to rationalize and excuse this kind of conduct" was encouraging such disruptions.

Agnew readily conceded that he had expected the heckling Wednesday, but declared that the public had "a right to hear." He said that the demonstrators should have allowed him to speak once they had engaged in their whistle-blowing demonstration.

The Vice President's press secretary, Victor Gold, said Agnew had come prepared for the San Diego heckling "because we have been accustomed in the past six weeks to having McGovern people there disrupting our meetings . . . And the only reason we are prepared is because Mr. Mankiewicz and Sen. McGovern have not been stopping these people in the past."

Many of the demonstrators Wednesday carried McGovern signs. Agnew denounced them from the podium as "ideological fanatics" and compared them to Nazi brownshirts.

McGovern stepped into the dispute yesterday afternoon when he told thousands of cheering students at the University of Cincinnati gymnasium that he considered the San Diego protest "a put-up deal."

"I think the old Nixon sabotage squad was at work," McGovern said. "I think the hecklers were planted. I think the guy who swung the punch (at one of the hecklers) was planted." Like Mankiewicz, he had watched television clips.

Ziegler said not only Mrs. Nixon, but the President's daughters, Julie Eisenhower and Tricia Cox, and various administration speakers have been the targets of other disruptions. He said some protesters in Boston Tuesday chanted antiwar slogans and threw firecrackers and pieces of brick at police during Mrs. Nixon's visit there.

"I kind of boil a bit when I see someone come into the vicinity of the First Lady and shout obscenities," Ziegler told reporters.

Mrs. Nixon's press secretary, Connie Stewart, said the First Lady "thoroughly enjoyed" the night. Mrs. Nixon was taken in through a back door and did not see the demonstration, Mrs. Stewart said.

"For Republicans to whine about campaign disruptions is like Al Capone complaining about crime in the streets," McGovern press spokesman Kirby Jones said. "Let the Republicans clean out their own saboteurs and Agnew plants, and clean up their rhetoric before crying wolf to the American people."

McGovern Has The Final Word

By a Washington Post Staff Writer

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Nov. 2—Sen. George McGovern was walking along the fence at the airport here today shaking hands when he came up to a young man who was heckling him.

"Four more years, four more years," the protestor shouted at McGovern. "We'll beat you so bad you'll wish you never left South Dakota."

The Democratic presidential nominee leaned over to the heckler and said:

"I've got a secret for you—kiss my ass."